

This is an official

DHEC Health Advisory

Distributed via Health Alert Network
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Increased Surveillance for Cases Associated with a Shiga toxin producing *E. coli* (STEC) Outbreak

The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) is requesting heightened surveillance for persons presenting with symptoms consistent with Shiga toxin producing *E. coli* (i.e. enterohemorrhagic *E. coli*), including diarrhea that is often bloody, hemolytic uremic syndrome (HUS) in children or thrombocytopenia purpura in adults.

Background Information

DHEC is investigating an outbreak of cases of bloody diarrhea that may be associated with Shiga toxin producing *E. coli* (STEC) and travel to the Hilton Head Island area. To date, 5 cases of bloody diarrhea have been identified in individuals visiting the Hilton Head Island area from 5 different states (CT, NC, OH, VA, WV) during the period of July 7 – July 20, 2007. No cases have been identified in South Carolina residents. Shiga toxin has been identified in stools collected from three cases, one of which is also culture positive for *E. coli* O157:H7. Additional culture results are pending.

South Carolina residents may have also been exposed. We are asking clinicians to increase their index of suspicion for STEC when evaluating patients with acute diarrhea.

Clinical, Laboratory and Epidemiological Indicators

Clinical syndromes associated with a Shiga toxin producing *E. coli* infection include:

- Gastroenteritis with diarrhea and abdominal cramps (fever and bloody stools may or may not be present), and/or
- Hemolytic uremic syndrome (HUS) with or without gastroenteritis: the dyad of acute renal failure and microangiopathic hemolytic anemia usually seen in young children, or thrombocytopenic purpura (TTP) in adults: the pentad of HUS plus neurologic signs (seizures, altered mental status), fever, and thrombocytopenia.

Management is supportive and antibiotics for gastroenteritis are generally not recommended, as there are some reports of increased incidence of HUS when antibiotics are used.

Laboratory criteria for diagnosis:

Isolation of Shiga toxin-producing *E. coli* from a clinical specimen.

Epidemiological criteria:

A history of visit or stay in Hilton Head Island area from July 7 – July 20, 2007.

Follow-up of possible cases

- Cases of bloody diarrhea or a clinical presentation consistent with STEC, coupled with the epidemiologic criteria described above, should be reported to state or local health departments via the phone numbers listed below. DHEC will arrange for collection of stool samples for testing, as appropriate.
- Any laboratory confirmed acute case associated with Shiga toxin producing *E. coli* or *E. coli* identified as serogroup O157:H7 should be reported within 24 hours to DHEC, as per the current DHEC List of Reportable Conditions.

Additional Sources of Information

For additional information, check the following websites:

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *E. coli* website: <http://www.cdc.gov/ecoli/>
- DHEC Health Alert Network: <http://www.scdhec.net/health/disease/han/notifications.htm>

DHEC Contact Information for Reportable Diseases and Reporting Requirements

Reporting of Shiga toxin producing *E. coli* (STEC) is consistent with South Carolina Law requiring the reporting of diseases and conditions to your state or local public health department. (State Law # 44-29-10 and Regulation # 61-20) as per the DHEC 2007 List of Reportable Conditions available at: <http://www.scdhec.net/hs/diseasecont/disease.htm>.

Federal HIPAA legislation allows disclosure of protected health information, without consent of the individual, to public health authorities to collect and receive such information for the purpose of preventing or controlling disease. (HIPAA 45 CFR §164.512).

Regional Public Health Offices – 2006-2007

Mail or call reports to the Epidemiology Office in each Public Health Region.

Region 1

Anderson, Oconee

220 McGee Road
Anderson, SC 29625
Phone: (864) 260-4358
Fax: (864) 260-5623
Nights / Weekends: 1-866-298-4442

Abbeville, Edgefield, Greenwood, Laurens, McCormick, Saluda

1736 S. Main Street
Greenwood, SC 29646
Phone: 1-888-218-5475
Fax: (864) 942-3690
Nights / Weekends: 1-800-420-1915

Region 2

Greenville, Pickens

PO Box 2507
200 University Ridge
Greenville, SC 29602-2507
Phone: (864) 282-4139
Fax: (864) 282-4373
Nights / Weekends: 1-800-993-1186

Cherokee, Spartanburg, Union

PO Box 4217
151 E. Wood Street
Spartanburg, SC 29305-4217
Phone: (864) 596-2227, x- 210
Fax: (864) 596-3443
Nights / Weekends: 1-800-993-1186

Region 3

Chester, Lancaster, York

PO Box 817
1833 Pageland Highway
Lancaster, SC 29721
Phone: (803) 286-9948
Fax: (803) 286-5418
Nights / Weekends: 1-866-867-3886

Region 3 (continued)

Fairfield, Lexington, Newberry, Richland

2000 Hampton Street
Columbia, SC 29204
Phone: (803) 576-2749
Fax: (803) 576-2993
Nights / Weekends: 1-888-554-9915

Region 4

Clarendon, Kershaw, Lee, Sumter

PO Box 1628
105 North Magnolia Street
Sumter, SC 29150
Phone: (803) 773-5511
Fax: (803) 775-9941
Nights/Weekends: 1-877-831-4647

Chesterfield, Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Marlboro, Marion

145 E. Cheves Street
Florence, SC 29506
Phone: (843) 661-4830
Fax: (843) 661-4859
Nights / Weekends: (843) 660-8145

Region 5

Bamberg, Calhoun, Orangeburg

PO Box 1126
1550 Carolina Avenue
Orangeburg, SC 29116
Phone: (803) 533-7199
Fax: (803) 533-7134
Nights / Weekends: (803) 954-8513

Aiken, Allendale, Barnwell

1680 Richland Avenue, W. Suite 40
Aiken, SC 29801
Phone: (803) 642-1618
Fax: (803) 643-8386
Nights / Weekends: (803) 827-8668 or
1-800-614-1519

Region 6

Georgetown, Horry, Williamsburg

2830 Oak Street
Conway, SC 29526-4560
Phone: (843) 365-3126, x-138 or x-174
Fax: (843) 365-3153
Nights / Weekends: (843) 381-6710

Region 7

Berkeley, Charleston, Dorchester

4050 Bridge View Drive, Suite 600
N. Charleston, SC 29405
Phone: (843) 746-3806
Fax: (843) 746-3851
Nights / Weekends: (843) 219-8470

Region 8

Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton, Jasper

219 S. Lemacks Street
Walterboro, SC 29488
Phone: (843) 549-1516, x-214
Fax: (843) 549-6845
Nights / Weekends: 1-800-614-4698

DHEC Bureau of Disease Control Division of Acute Disease Epidemiology

1751 Calhoun Street
Box 101106
Columbia, SC 29211
Phone: (803) 898-0861
Fax: (803) 898-0897
Nights / Weekends: 1-888-847-0902



www.scdhec.gov

Categories of Health Alert messages:

Health Alert:	conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.
Health Advisory:	provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.
Health Update	provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.